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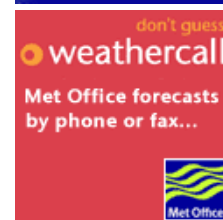
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Observing at Heathrow Airport

24 May 2004

Weather observing is an important activity both for aviation and meteorological purposes. In recent years, advances in technology means that fully-automated systems can now fulfil the Met Office requirement to provide weather data for individual locations.

The Met Office is currently discussing the future of weather observations at Heathrow Airport with relevant parties in order to reach an agreement to provide continued records for the site.

Regardless of the outcome of these negotiations, National Air Traffic Services has already indicated that it would wish to retain manned observations at Heathrow until at least December 2005 and possibly beyond.

Customers of the data from Heathrow should be assured that the Met Office will work closely with all involved through this discussion period and beyond to mitigate any changes that are made at Heathrow.

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